

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the annotation data includes at least one of ink marks, highlight marks, text-based note windows and audio dictations.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the document is a blank document.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for annotating a Web-based document and viewing the annotated document, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating annotation data by processing first user input provided to annotation client software by a first user of the annotation client software;

(b) associating the annotation data with the document to create the annotated document, the document being displayed via a Web browser;

(c) providing the annotated document to an annotation server;

(d) with the annotation server, generating a graphic data file corresponding to a visual layout of the annotation data;

(e) when a second user of the annotation client software attempts to view the annotated document, generating the annotated document for the second user as a function of the document and the associated annotation data including

(i) enclosing the annotated document inside a fixed-sized layer of the Web browser,

- (ii) examining each element of the annotated document to detect particular properties which cause the element to move relative to a predetermined corner of the annotated document during resizing of the Web browser, and
- (iii) modifying the particular properties to prevent such movements;
- (f) when a third user not employing the annotation client software attempts to view the annotated document, generating the annotated document and providing the annotated document to the third user as a function of the document, the graphic data and predetermined programming codes; and
- (g) before step a, preventing elements of the document from moving when the document is being one of resized and manipulated.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the predetermined corner is a top left corner of the document.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein each of steps (b) and (e) includes the sub-step of utilizing at least one ActiveX control to draw ink images and text-based note windows over the document based on the annotated data.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method wherein the graphical data file situated on a top of the annotated document is transparent in every location of the annotated document except locations which include ink marks, for annotating a Web-based document and viewing the annotated document, comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating annotation data by processing user input provided to annotation client software by a first user of the annotation client software;
- (b) associating the annotation data with the document to create the annotated document, the document being displayed via a Web browser;
- (c) providing the annotated document to an annotation server;
- (d) with the annotation server, generating a graphic data file corresponding to a visual layout of the annotation data;

(e) when a second user of the annotation client software attempts to view the annotated document, generating the annotated document for the second user as a function of the document and the associated annotation data; and

(f) when a third user not employing the annotation client software attempts to view the annotated document, generating the annotated document and providing the annotated document to the third user as a function of the document, the graphic data and predetermined programming codes, and wherein step (f) further includes the substeps of:

(i) inserting a further layer into the document to overlay each text-based note window of the annotated document,

(ii) overlaying four identical copies of the graphical data file on top of the annotated document, and

(iii) changing clipping rectangles of the four identical copies in response to the user input to provide proper passage of the user input to the annotated document.

Claims 17-31 (canceled)